

Cancel claim 9.

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A3 <sup>Sub</sup> 10. (Amended) The method of claim [9] 6 wherein said corticosteroid <sup>fluocinonide</sup> selected from the group consisting of mometasone furoate and fluocinolone.

[Please add the following claims:]

A4 12. (New Claim) The method of claim 1 wherein said corticosteroid is a high potency corticosteroid.

13. (New Claim) The method of claim 6 wherein said corticosteroid is a high potency corticosteroid.

#### REMARKS

The present invention provides a method for treating proliferative skin diseases comprising the administration of an effective amount of tazarotene and an effective amount of a mid-or high-potency corticosteroid. (See claim 1, as amended.) Preferably tazarotene and said mid-or high-potency corticosteroid are applied topically to the psoriatic skin of a human subject. (See claim 6, as amended.) More preferably the corticosteroid is a high-potency corticosteroid. (See newly added claims 12 and 13.)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being patentable over Yamamoto ('906) and Nagpal et al. ('279) in combination.

The Examiner argues that "Yamamoto teaches it is known in the art to use adrenocortical hormones, such as fluocinolone acetonide, betamethasone valerate and clobetasol propionate, in the treatment of skin diseases such as psoriasis and atopic dermatitis".

Furthermore, the Examiner states that "Nagpal et al teach it is known in the art to use tazarotene in the treatment of psoriasis".

The Examiner concludes that "(t)he instant claims differ from the cited references by reciting the combined use of a corticosteroid and tazarotene in the treatment of skin diseases such as psoriasis. The combination of two compounds/compositions taught by the prior art to be useful for the same purpose to form a third composition that is to be used for the very same purpose would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in